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MELVILLE B. COX.

First Methodist Missionary to Africa.

AFRICA was the first foreign field of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Melville B. Cox was appointed to this work in 1832. He was a member of the Virginia Conference at the time of his appointment by Bishop Hedding. He was filled with missionary zeal. "It is the height of my ambition and brightest vision of my life," said he "to lay my bones in the soil of Africa. If I can only do this I shall establish a connection between Africa and the church at home that shall never be broken until Africa is redeemed." In conversation with a friend, just before sailing, he said, "If I die in Africa you must come over and write my epitaph." "I will" said his friend, "but what shall I write?" "Write," said Cox, "Let a thousand fall before Africa be given up."

On the 6th of November, 1832, he sailed from Norfolk. The voyage proved unusually stormy and tedious. On the 7th of March, 1833, the ship anchored off the town of Monrovia. He commenced his work a few days after landing. Before a month had passed he had purchased a mission house. He established Sunday schools, and planned additional mission stations, and was full of hope. One month after his arrival he wrote back, "There is not in the wide world a field that promises a sincere effort of the Christian community a richer harvest." He wrote of his plans and what he purposed doing; that he hoped to line the coast with mission stations.

Everything was progressing well until the 12th of April, when he was prostrated by the African fever. In his solitary home he was favored with no regular nurse, and sadly wore away hours of untold suffering, when, on Sunday morning, July 21, three months after his arrival, he passed away. His last words were: "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly." He was buried in the mission burying grounds at Monrovia, where rest so many missionaries. Mr. Cox's greatest dying grief was that no one had been sent to the relief of poor, benighted Africa. His missionary career was short, but he yet speaks for Africa.

JUDSON D. COLLINS.

Our First Missionary to China.

Methodist Missionary work was commenced in Foochow, China, in 1847. The first missionary sent was Judson D. Collins, a graduate of Ann Arbor University. He was an unwearied laborer in every field of usefulness in the church. He became very much interested in China, and read everything he could lay his hands upon in respect to that country. His great desire seemed to be to carry the gospel to the uncounted multitudes of that country. He had written to Dr. Durbin, then corresponding secretary, on the subject, but received the reply that our church had no mission in China.

In 1845 he consulted Bishop Janes, and begged that he might be appointed to China. He was told that no steps had been taken towards establishing a mission in China; that funds would have to be raised, and much time would elapse before the work could begin. His reply to this was: "Bishop, engage me a place before the mast, and my own strong arm will pull me to China and support me while there," This appeal had its effect, and arrangements were made to begin work in that great

empire. He, in company with the Rev. M. C. White, sailed from Boston on the 15th of April, 1847. They were nearly five months completing the voyage.

They commenced work outside of the city of Foo-chow, and after some time Mr. Collins made a vigorous effort to get a foothold within the walls of the city. They soon devoted themselves to the study of the language, administered to the sick, and distributed literature. Mr. Collins rented quarters in the city proper, and partly furnished them for his use, when, because of public excitement, he thought it prudent to relieve the owner from the lease.

The first school was opened on Feb. 28, 1848, with eight boys. The first Sunday school was organized March 4 1848. Mr. Collins, in describing this first Sunday school, says: "It was a sight to gladden the angels. These little Chinese boys, nurtured in the darkness of heathenism and in the midst of idolatrous rites, assembled for the purpose of studying the claims of the great Jehovah to our worship and the denunciation of creature worship."

Mr. Collins worked with intense earnestness until his health was undermined, and after much persuasion left China on the 13th of April, 1851. He was permitted to labor only a little over four years. He reached San Francisco on the 14th of July; and on the 13th of May, 1852, in his thirtieth year, he ceased to suffer. Seldom has one so young been permitted to accomplish so much.